

Application No. 09/941505
Page 4

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. E14.2B-9861-US01

Remarks

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 and 8 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 8 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph.

Claim 7 depends from independent claim 21. Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 7. Applicant submits that claim 21 is now patentable over the art of record as indicated in the Office Action.

Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 8 depends from claim 21.

These amendments have been made in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

Claims 3-5, 9-11, 13-15 and 26 also depend from claim 21 and are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 21 is patentable.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 9-11 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drean (FR 2757935) in view of Mason et al. (U.S. 4,547,381).

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 14 and 26, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drean and Mason et al., as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Hamilton et al. (U.S. 6,607,696).

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drean and Mason et al., as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Locke (U.S. 4,123,130).

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drean and Mason et al., as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Twardowski et al. (U.S. 4,683,039).

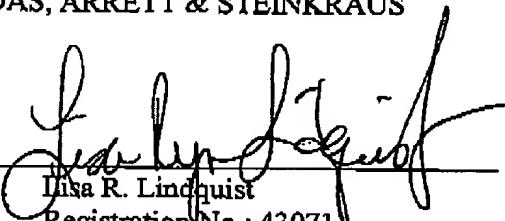
CONCLUSION

Claims 3-5, 8-11, 13-15, 21 and 26 are pending in the application. Applicants have addressed each of the issues presented in the Office Action. Claims 7 and 8 have been indicated as being allowable over the art of record. Applicants have made the necessary amendments. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and an early allowance of the claims as presented. Should any issues remain, the attorney of record may be reached at (952)563-3011, to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

By:



Lisa R. Lindquist
Registration No.: 43071

Date: April 3, 2006

6109 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 2000
Minnetonka, MN 55343-9185
Telephone: (952) 563-3000
Facsimile: (952) 563-3001

f:\wpwork\lrl\09861us01_amd_20060202.doc